UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/2000/134
22 March 2000

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-sixth session
Agenda item 6

RACISM, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, XENOPHOBIA AND ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION

Letter dated 10 March 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights

I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith*, the letter of 10 March 2000, addressed by Mr. Branko Brankovic, Ambassador, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the United Nations Office in Geneva, to Mr. Maurice Glèlè-Ahanhanzo, Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance of the Commission on Human Rights. I would like to ask you to have it issued as an official document of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights under agenda item 6.

(signed) Branko Brankovic
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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* The annex is reproduced as received, in the language of submission only.

Geneva, 10 March 2000

Mr. Glele-Ahanhanzo,

I would like to draw your attention to the most worrisome situation in which a part of the population of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has been for some time now and which falls within direct mandate of the Commission on Human Rights and your personal mandate as its Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.

Recalling relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights entitled "Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance" which define your mandate, I consider it imperative that you engage to analyse the position of Serbs, Montenegrins, Romas, Goranci, Turks and other threatened non-Albanian population in the Province of Kosovo and Metohija in the period from 12 June 1999 to date.

Eight months after the deployment of KFOR and UNMIK, chaos and lawlessness are prevailing in Kosovo and Metohija and terror, international organized crime, illicit drugs and arms trafficking and money laundering are continuing unabated; parallel quasi state authorities are established, comprised exclusively of Albanians, as the only one of the numerous ethnic groups living in Kosovo and Metohija. Before the eyes of United Nations representatives, murders, abductions, rape and lootings of Serbs, destruction of their private property and of that of the state occur on a daily basis. There is no trace of the respect for one of the key provisions of the UN Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999) to guarantee the security of people and protect the property of the Serbian population primarily.

In the period from 12 June 1999 to 6 February 2000, there were perpetrated in Kosovo and Metohija 4249 terrorist acts, of which 4030 against Serbs and Montenegrins, 126 against members of other national groups, 93 against Albanians. As many as 834 persons went missing and were abducted, 889 were killed and 784 wounded. Over 50.000 homes were demolished, of which some razed to the ground, because on their emplacements, "new owners" built other houses. Over 1000 private dwellings and houses were broken into and forcibly taken occupancy of. Over 80 mediaeval monasteries and churches were demolished. Maltreatments and threats are occurring on a daily basis. In total, about 350.000 non-Albanian residents were expelled, of whom 250.000 Serbs.

Mr. Maurice GLELE-AHANHANZO
Special Rapporteur on Contemporary
Forms of Racism, Racial Discrimination,
Xenophobia and Related Intolerance
Commission on Human Rights

The remaining Serbs in the Province are subjected to constant terror and provocations, herded into few enclaves, with all the consequences such a situation brings about.

State borders with Albania and Macedonia are not secured. As a result, over 200.000 foreign citizens, criminals and bandits entered illegally the territory of the FR of Yugoslavia, and they loot and take over other people's property unhindered and with impunity.

My Government has on several occasions informed the United Nations of such state of affairs, in particular the Security Council and the Secretary-General, as well as the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and FR of Yugoslavia and others who were duty-bound to react and contribute to putting an end to serious breaches of human rights and freedoms of the Serbian population primarily, but of other ethnic groups in Kosovo and Metohija as well. Among others, were informed those Special Rapporteurs and Working Groups of the Commission and independent experts who were supposed to act in regard to this situation in accordance with the mandates entrusted to them. The representative of the FR of Yugoslavia to the UNESCO in Paris has informed the Director-General of this organization of the very serious situation in Kosovo and Metohija, where in vandalistic acts perpetrated by terrorists Serbian cultural heritage - monuments, libraries, art galleries, archives and others - are being destroyed beyond help and disappearing leaving no trace. The Director-General of UNESCO has reacted in regard to some of these racist, uncivilised act in his statements, which was welcome by the Yugoslav public opinion.

I presume that you have already had the opportunity to be informed with a series of UN documents which, although merely in traces, convincingly enough indicate the real proportions of this situation.

The systematic violation of human rights and basic freedoms of Serbs, Montenegrins, Romas and other non-Albanian population is unacceptable to the FR of Yugoslavia, in particular in the light of its duty to ensure to its entire population full respect for those international norms which it had accepted by ratifying the relevant conventions of the United Nations.

It is for decades that racial and religious discrimination towards Serbs and everything that is not Albanian has been incited and maintained among the Albanian population in Kosovo and Metohija. History, topography, cadastral books are being forged and all steps taken by the Republic of Serbia to preserve the multi-ethnic character of the Province and all forms of life together are being rejected, with a view to securing a ground for separatist Albanian plans and goals. Since 12 June 1999, an open and unrestrained hatred blew out towards everything that is not Albanian. It drew Albanians into an abyss of most violent crimes against the Serbian population and its material traces in this part of Serbia. I appeal to you to raise your voice against all crimes occurring on a daily basis in the roots of which is racial hatred and exclusion and that you, in your capacity as Special Rapporteur, pay particular attention to this problem.

I would like to draw your attention that my letters addressed to other Special Rapporteurs and Working Groups of the UN Commission on Human Rights, as well as to independent experts, contain far more concrete information that we could not mention in detail herein due to space, but which would be of great help for a more comprehensive perception of the situation in Kosovo and Metohija.

Armed, artillery attacks on villages: Slovinj, Maticane, Orahovac, Konjuh, Berivojce, Gornja Brnjica, villages near Kosovska Kamenica, Grncar, Magila, Ajvalija, all villages of the Istok-Klina area, Gorazdevac near Pec, Svinjare, Klokot, Novo brdo, Zjum, Donja i Gornja Gusterica, Susica, Badavac, Bresje, Vrbovac, Vitina, Cernice (Gnjilane municipality), Dobrusa, Veliko Ropotovo (Kosovska Kamenica municipality), Partes (Gnjilane municipality), Pasjane (Gnjilane municipality), Ljestar, Budriga, Dobrotin (Lipljan municipality), Grncar, Binac, Ranilug, Silovo, Odovce, Rajanovce, Bosce, Caglavica, Paravolo, Lebane, Gojbulja, the villages in the area of Gora municipality: Brodosvce, Belobrod, Kukavce - frequent attacks on homes of Goranci, Muslims and Albanians loyal citizens of the FR of Yugoslavia.

All this runs counter to assertions of UNMIK and KFOR about the disarming of the terrorist "KLA".

Sieges of neighbourhoods: Gadnje, Orahovac and Velika Hoca, Koretin, villages around Gnjilane, Priluzje, Gornja Srbica, Gorazdevac. About 3500 Serbs, residents of Orahovac, have been living for more that seven months since the deployment of KFOR and UNMIK in the only concentration camp in Europe after the Second World War - under the siege of the terrorist "KLA".

Armed threats against villages and terror committed on a daily basis against non-Albanian population: Ugljari, Srpski Babus, Stimlje, Novo Selo, Bresje, the area around Kosovo Polje, Milosevo (against which an armed attack was carried out), village of Zebnice (dramatic humanitarian situation), the majority of the mainly Croatian Catholic population who lived in the villages of Letinice, Vrnez, Vrnavo Kolo and Sasare have moved out, Drenovac (50 Serbs massacred), village of Cernica (series of incidents in which members of the US contingent of KFOR maltreated Serbs), Pozaranje, Gotovusa, Gatnje, Zubin Potok, Veliki Alas, Vrelo i Radevo.

The looted Serb villages from which the residents were forced out: Muzicani, Slivovo, Orlovic, Dragas, the area around Kosovo Polje, Sofalija, Livadice, Mirovac, Sirinicka Zupa, Medregovac, Grace, Zociste, Sofalije, Dragoljevac, Tomance, Koretin, Lestar, Donja Sipasnica.

Serb neighborhoods set on fire: Istok, Klina, Donja Lapastica, Obranca, Velika Reka, Perane, Lause, villages in the area around Podujevo, Grace, Donja Dubica, Zociste, Orahovac, Naklo, Vitomirice, Belo Polje, Kojlovice, Alos-Toplicane, Krajiste, Rudnik, Donji Strmac, Goles (Lipljan municipality), Orlovic (Pristina municipality), Krpimej and Lausa (Podujevo municipality), Muzicane (all Serb houses burned down), Zaimovo, Denovac, Lesjane, Gornje i Donje Nerodimlje (all Serb houses looted and then burned down), Sinaja (Istok municipality), Balovac, Mali Talinovic, Ljubizda, Klobuka (Kosovska Kamenica municipality).

Registered number of homes burned down: about 50.000 houses belonging to Serbs, Roma, Muslims Goranci and other non-Albanians were burned down in Kosovo and Metohija.

We are kindly asking you to take all necessary measures within your mandate and to inform the Commission on Human Rights in respect of the afore mentioned.

Please accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Branko Brankovic
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.